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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

27 February 1960

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

OK USSR-Greece: Soviet Ambassador Sergeyev, since returning to Athens in early February from home leave, has been contacting various ministers of the Greek Government to repeat Moscow's desire for closer political, cultural, and economic relations. In a recent meeting with Foreign Minister Averoff, Sergeyev complained of Athens' "indifference" to Moscow's efforts for an international detente and the unwillingness of top Greek leaders to accept an invitation to visit the USSR. Ambassador Briggs believes that Moscow is planning to exploit Greece's present economic difficulties with "some spectacular offer" at the opportune moment.

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OK Bloc-Iraq: Czechoslovakia has offered Iraq an aid credit of about \$30,000,000. Iraq will probably accept this additional bloc assistance and may use the credit for a series of quick-impact projects designed to impress the populace.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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South Vietnam: [The Diem government reports that, according to recently captured documents, the Vietnamese Communists plan intensified terrorist activities in Saigon and the countryside in the immediate future. American personnel in South Vietnam, who are likely targets, have been advised to increase their normal vigilance. While the reported Communist intentions may be exaggerated, the security situation in South Vietnam has deteriorated in recent months. The estimated 3,000 terrorists have become bolder.]

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Renewed Soviet Overtures to Greece

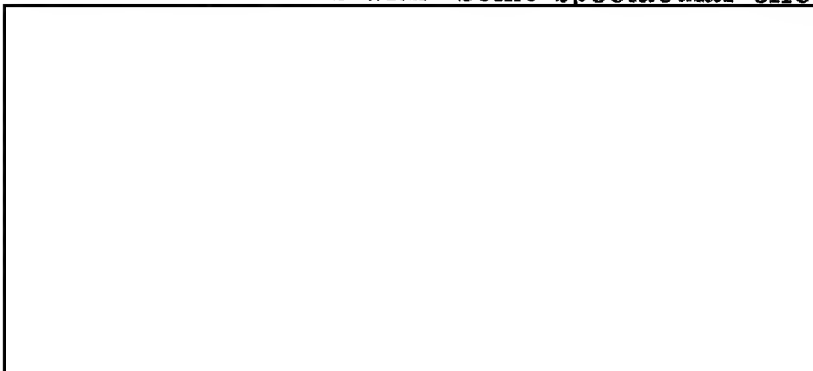
Soviet Ambassador Sergeyev, just back from home leave, has continued to emphasize to Greek government ministers Moscow's desire for closer political, cultural, and economic relations. In a recent meeting with Foreign Minister Averoff, Sergeyev complained of Athens' "indifference" to Soviet efforts for an international detente and the unwillingness of top Greek leaders to accept an invitation to visit the USSR. He assured Averoff that the Soviet leaders' desire for friendly, peaceful, and warm relations with all countries was not just a matter of current or temporary policy and cited as evidence of their good faith the recent decision to reduce Soviet armed forces by one third.

Similar arguments last November failed to win Greek approval for Soviet requests for expanded cultural exchanges and air service routes through Athens. Sergeyev also suggested at that time that Averoff and Prime Minister Karamanlis visit the USSR, and angled for an invitation to Khrushchev to stop over for talks in Athens on his Paris trip in March.

While Greek officials have shown little enthusiasm for Moscow's overtures, growing agricultural surpluses, increasing unemployment, and inability to secure admission to the European Common Market make bloc offers increasingly difficult for Athens to reject. In their recent conversation, Averoff told Sergeyev that further trade expansion was difficult, as the USSR insisted on barter agreements but produced few goods that Greece could use. Subsequently, Averoff admitted to Ambassador Briggs that while Greece actually could use many Soviet-produced items, the government had no intention of allowing the USSR to "dig itself into the Greek market."

Ambassador Briggs believes that the Soviet leaders are "playing their cards carefully" and are planning to exploit Greece's economic difficulties with "some spectacular offer."

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Czech Economic Aid Offer to Iraq

Czechoslovakia's offer of a \$30,000,000 credit to Iraq will make it possible for Baghdad to carry out quickly several small projects having immediate domestic propaganda value. Sensitive to public disillusionment, Baghdad needs to fulfill soon at least some of its public promises of economic development, and will probably accept the offer. Prague, under the bloc's aid program for underdeveloped countries, has displayed an ability to carry out projects of a light industrial nature quickly and efficiently.

Iraqi economic conditions have deteriorated steadily since Qasim came to power, and long-range projects--financed primarily by the Soviet \$137,500,000 line of credit--are still in the early stages of implementation. Iraq has recently been attempting to induce Western contractors who have been active in Iraq in the past to undertake a number of projects on which it wants quick reliable performance.

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Communist Terrorism in South Vietnam

[Communist plans for an early increase of terrorism in South Vietnam are allegedly revealed in a Communist directive captured recently in a raid on a dissident command post in the southwestern border area. The Diem government apparently is convinced that the document is genuine. Three Communist agents captured subsequently have reportedly confirmed a Communist intent to stage some kind of dramatic incident in Saigon.]

[Although the document refers to an "armed coup" to take place sometime in the early future, South Vietnamese officials interpret this to mean a show of force, possibly involving coordinated attacks in widespread areas. Vietnamese Communist guerrilla forces in South Vietnam, augmented in recent months by personnel infiltrated from North Vietnam, are believed to number only about 3,000. There are no specific indications that American personnel are intended targets, but precautions are being taken in view of past Communist attacks on members of the American Military Aid and Advisory Group in 1957 and 1959.]

[While the report of Communist intentions may be exaggerated, the security situation--particularly in the southwest--has deteriorated during the past six months, and Communist terrorists have become bolder. Assassinations and kidnappings of local officials and villagers have increased to between 20 and 35 per month, and large Communist bands have been attacking government patrols and security installations.]

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